

Graying of North Dakota



**If you know
someone
who may be
vulnerable
VAPS could
help. Call
today
to get the
answers
to your
questions.**



Other Available Resources In North Dakota:

*N.D. Senior Info-Line: 1-800-451-8693
www.ndseniorinfo.com*

Consumer Fraud ND Attorney Generals Office:

1-800-472-2600 or 701-328-3404

Legal Assistance of ND: 1-800-634-5263

Region 3 & 4, Regional Ombudsman:

1-888-607-8610 or 701-665-2200

NEHSC Family Caregiver Support Program

701-795-3147.

Protection and Advocacy

701-795-3800

Northeast Human Service Center Intake (NEHSC)

*151 S. 4th St., S401
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(701) 795-3000
1-888-845-2215
Fax: 701-795-3050*

Mental Health Crisis Line: 701-775-0525 (GF)

*For ND residents outside of the Grand Forks
area: 1-800-845-3731 (crisis Service Only)*

Serving Region IV: Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina & Walsh Counties. All services are made available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, or handicap, and are subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, amended.

Vulnerable Adult Protective Services



**Grand Forks County
Social Services
701-787-8540
FAX: 701-787-5918**

Vulnerable Adult Team (VAT)

VAT or the Vulnerable Adult Team is a cooperative arrangement between NEHSC-Aging Services and GF County Social Services. The purpose is to meet, educate, and facilitate ways to address the needs of vulnerable adults in Region IV. The Vulnerable Adult Team (VAT) meets every other month on the 3rd Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

One purpose of the meeting is to discuss potential vulnerable adult needs



VAT meetings are held in GF County Office Building.

using a multidisciplinary meeting format. The goal is to find individual solutions that enable the vulnerable adult to make their own choices. The meetings include educational topics plus discussions on current trends and issues. **VAT** enhances networking with people who want to contribute their time, skills and knowledge to help potentially vulnerable adults.

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Contact GF County Social Services Intake – Adult Protective Services: **701-787-8540**

RaeAnn Johnson, Family Caregiver Support Program/VAPS Coordinator: **795-3147**

The Growing Problem of Elder Abuse in North Dakota

Provision of vulnerable adult protective services is contingent on three factors:

1. The individual is an adult
2. The individual is vulnerable
3. There exists a need for protective services

For purposes of receiving services under VAPS, a vulnerable adult is a person who has a substantial mental or functional impairment that compromises health, safety, or independent life style. Examples of substantial mental impairment may include:

- Loss of memory that poses a threat to safety or makes the adult vulnerable to exploitation.
- Inability to dress appropriately for the weather.
- Wandering, “getting lost” or disorientation.
- Inability to manage medical treatments, medications or finances.
- Untreated alcohol or drug abuse (including prescription medications).
- An untreated mental illness that inhibits the adults ability to maintain self care or live independently, or impairs the adult’s decision making capability.

Eligible Clients

An eligible client is an individual age 18 and older or a minor emancipated by marriage who has a substantial mental or functional impairment that compromises health, safety, or independent life style. It does not include an individual who lives in a long-term care facility or an individual who lives in a group home for a defined population.

Voluntary Reporting or Referral

Any individual who has cause to believe that a vulnerable



One of the fastest growing age groups is women over 80 years old.

adult has been subjected to conditions or circumstances that would result in abuse, neglect, or exploitation may report the information to ASD or the regional human service center. Mandatory reporting is not required except for law enforcement agencies and various professional organizations that may require reporting of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation in their individual code of ethics. N.D.C.C. 50-25.2-03.

Criteria for Vulnerable Adults Protective Services (VAPS)

are met if the protective service worker can show a past or current history of the following and has reason to suspect that vulnerable adult may be subject to one or more of the following abuse in the very near future:

**Physical Abuse,
Exploitation,
Financial Exploitation,
Neglect,
Self-neglect,
or a need for protective services.**



VAPS Providers will complete a screen to address individual needs. If warranted a full assessment will be completed.